

# **OPERATION WEED AND SEED CENTRAL AND WEST WARDS OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

Operation Weed and Seed is a collaborative effort intended to reduce street crime and drug and alcohol abuse within the Central and West Wards of the City of Newark, New Jersey. In developing broad economic and social opportunities in cooperation with Federal, State, County and local agencies, as well as private organizations and local groups, Operation Weed and Seed will accomplish community revitalization within the targeted neighborhoods.

To fulfill their roles as agencies participating in the Weed and Seed effort, the organizations specified below hereby enter into this Memorandum of Agreement.

## **Program Management—Weed and Seed Coordinating Committee**

1. The Weed and Seed program will follow the guidelines set forth by Executive Weed and Seed Office from Washington, DC.
2. The overall program will consist of a Weed and Seed Steering Committee, a Weed and Seed Coordinating Committee and two-subcommittees. The Weed and Seed Steering Committee will collectively create, implement, supervise and guide the Weed and Seed strategy for the Central and West Wards of Newark. The Weed and Seed Coordinating Committee will administer the day-to-day operations of Operation Weed and Seed. The two sub-committees—one (1) for Weed Programs and one (1) for Seed Programs—will create, supervise and implement their respective programs.
3. The Weed and Seed Program Committees will meet monthly at which the undersigned as members of the respective committees will investigate, discuss, and formulate such strategies as may be required to accomplish the goals of this Weed and Seed effort. This will include obtaining input from broad segments of relevant entities, as well as ongoing monitoring of existing efforts.

## **Law Enforcement—Weed Committee**

1. To conduct heightened law enforcement efforts in the targeted neighborhoods, the Newark Police Department will provide the services of its officers, along with other agencies. Officers will be made available as needed for concentrated patrol of the Weed and Seed target neighborhoods.

2. The United States Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Essex County Sheriff's Department and Essex County Prosecutor's Office will provide services as required in conjunction with the Newark Police Department to maximize law enforcement efforts within the target areas. Specific activities will be coordinated with the Newark Police Department.
3. The U.S. Attorney's Office and the Essex County Prosecutor will review all prosecutorial priorities for the Weed and Seed Program, and determine the course of prosecution.

#### Community Policing—Weed Committee

1. The Newark Police Department will take steps aimed at implementing a Community Orientated Policing Program in the targeted neighborhoods. For each of the targeted neighborhoods, the Department will designate:
  - a. an officer as Weed Manager,
  - b. detectives as needed,
  - c. increased patrol as required, and
  - d. an adequate number of police officers, subject to resources available, sufficient to address the needs of the target neighborhood.
2. In each target area a neighborhood association of private citizens involved in the Weed and Seed efforts will be formed.
3. The Chief of Police will increase and enhance its relationship with residents of the targeted neighborhoods through regularly scheduled meetings between police and community residents.

#### Prevention/Intervention/Treatment—Seed Committee

1. The Weed and Seed Coordinating Committee will evaluate and prioritize requests for services originating from all targeted neighborhoods. The involved city agencies may include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Department of Health and Human Services, and
  - b. Newark Public Schools

What the Weed and Seed Coordinating Committee will do thereafter is where appropriate, assist in the processing of the request with the relevant agencies. The intervention can include notifying the relevant officials, as well as pursuing grants and financial assistance necessary to accomplish objectives.

2. The Newark Police Departments and the Weed and Seed Coordinating Committee will develop a mechanism for resolving applicable neighborhood problems.

3. The Weed and Seed Coordinating Committee, along with community development corporations and community-based organizations within the target areas, will conduct a job creation strategy and a youth jobs initiative for the target neighborhoods.
4. The Weed and Seed Coordinating Committee, working in conjunction with local hospitals and substance abuse advocacy and treatment programs, will create and implement a drug and alcohol prevention, intervention, and treatment strategy for the target neighborhoods.

#### Neighborhood Restoration – Seed Committee

Thousands of vacant housing units are known to exist in Newark, while the numbers of homeless families continue to rise. The Seed effort will therefore concentrate on:

1. Substandard housing and structures that will be demolished to remove derelict structures used for drug trafficking within the Weed and Seed areas;
2. Redevelopment of neighborhoods that will occur through the rehabilitation of salvageable existing units and the creation of new, affordable housing units; and
3. Cleaning-up and development of abandoned, vacant properties within the target areas.

#### Conclusion

In general, the Weed and Seed Coordinating Committee will work arduously with community based organizations, hospitals, local businesses, city, county and state agencies to increase the number of affordable housing units, decrease drug and alcohol related crimes, increase the percentage of high school and college graduates, and decrease the unemployment and underemployment rate within the targeted neighborhoods.

The agencies below accept in principle the goals and objectives of the Weed and Seed Application for Official Recognition: For the Central and West Wards of the City of Newark, New Jersey.

FAITH S. HOCHBERG  
U.S. Attorney

By: 

Paula T. Dow  
Assistant U.S. Attorney

*John W. Dougherty, Deputy Chief*  
*Chief of Police for Newark Police Department*  
Director, Newark Police Department

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Essex County Prosecutor

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District Superintendent,  
Newark Public Schools

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Executive Director,  
Newark Public Housing

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Chairperson, Interfaith  
Neighborhood Empowerment for  
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*John J. McMahon*  
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Newark Fighting Back

*Vernice A. Deery*  
Executive Director,  
Black & Latino Coalition

Hal Hamilton

Community Development Officer,  
Corinthian Housing Development  
Corporation

Anthony J. Serrano

Special Agent-in-Charge  
Newark Field Division, Drug  
Enforcement Administration (DEA)

André Desormes

Executive Director,  
The Apostles' House

Edward J. Gagnier

Executive Director,  
Frontiers International

Felipe Chavira, Esp.

Executive Director,  
Essex-Newark Legal Services

## THE OFFICIAL RECOGNITION APPLICATION

### I. MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

#### A. STEERING COMMITTEE

1. The Weed and Seed Steering Committee for the Central and West Wards of the City of Newark, New Jersey ("the Project") will consist of the following people:

FAITH HOCHBERG, U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey,  
970 Broad Street, Fifth Floor, Newark, New Jersey 07102, (973) 645-2700;

SHARP JAMES, Mayor of the City of Newark,  
920 Broad Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102, (973) 733-6400;

JOSEPH SANTIAGO, Chief of Police, City of Newark,  
31 Green Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102, (973) 733-7930;

ROBERT SCARRILLO, Director, Bureau of Narcotics, Essex County Sheriff's  
Department, Essex County Courts Bldg.,  
50 West Market Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102, (973) 621-4105;

DAVID MARTINEZ, Chief of Investigations, Essex County Prosecutor's Office,  
50 West Market Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102, (973) 621-4523;

JOHN COLEMAN, D.E.A. Special Agent-in-Charge of New Jersey (Soon to be  
Retired), United States Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Agency,  
80 Mulberry Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102, (973) 645-6088;

*imposed* ~~HAROLD LUCAS~~, Executive Director, Newark Public Housing,  
57 Sussex Avenue, Newark, New Jersey, (973) 430-2430;

PATRICIA C. GLENN, Regional Director, United States Department of Justice,  
Community Relations Services (CRS),  
26 Federal Plaza, Room 36-118, New York, New York, 10278, 212-264-0700;

✓ PAULA T. DOW, Assistant United States Attorney, District of New Jersey  
970 Broad Street, 5th Floor, Newark, New Jersey 07102, (973) 645-2718;

SHIRLEY ESTREICHER, LECC/Victim Witness Coordinator,  
United States Attorney's Office, District of New Jersey;  
970 Broad Street, 5th Floor, Newark, New Jersey 07102, (973) 645-2893;

VINCENT DUNN, Target-Cites TASC-Coordinator, Essex City Superior Ct.,  
50 West Market Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102, (973) 621-5086;

SAMUEL BLACKBURN, Program Analyst,  
United States Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Agency,  
80 Mulberry Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102, (973) 645-3692; w/v

HARRY C. BURKE, Investigate Assistant ET/CMO,  
United States Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Agency,  
80 Mulberry Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102, (973) 645-2448;

WILLIAM VASQUEZ, FACHE, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer,  
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ),  
150 Bergen Street, D 217, Newark New Jersey 07103, (973) 972-5658;

VINCENT PEREZ, Executive Director, Black & Latino Coalition,  
31 Fulton Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102, (973) 642-0181;

FLOYD MELVIN, Executive Director, United Community Corporation,  
31 Fulton Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102, (973) 642-0181;

WILLIE SIMMONS, Reverend, Director of Social Services,  
Newark/North Jersey Committee of Black Churchmen,  
595 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Newark, New Jersey 07103, (973) 759-1128;

GERALD BISHOP, Executive Director, Corinthian Housing Development Corp.,  
595 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Newark, New Jersey 07103, (973) 624-0111;

CHARLES KNIGHT, L.L.L., International Free and Accepted Black Masons,  
203 Johnson Avenue, Newark, New Jersey 07108;

EDWARD HAINES, Executive Director, Frontiers International,  
41 Rector Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102;

\* DR. L. RONALD DURHAM, Chairperson, Interfaith Neighborhood  
Empowerment for Prevention and Rehabilitation Project,  
186-190 Thomas Street, Newark, New Jersey 07114, (973) 242-4173;

REGINALD JACKSON, Reverend, Saint Matthew's AME Church,  
336 Oakwood Avenue, Orange, New Jersey 07050, (973) 678-1217;

JONAH NIXON, Reverend, Trinity Baptist Church,  
400 South 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102, (973) 643-2804,

ANGELA S. IFILL, Reverend, Trinity & Philip's Cathedral,  
24 Rector Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102, (973) 622-3505; and

BRIDGET PATILLO, Chairperson, The Twenty-One Club  
186-190 Thomas Street, Newark, New Jersey 07114, (973) 242-4173.

2. Roles and Responsibilities of the Weed and Seed Steering Committee:

The Weed and Seed Steering Committee will collectively create, implement, supervise and guide the Weed and Seed strategy for the Central and West Wards of the City of Newark, New Jersey ("the Project"). In this regard, the Steering Committee members will each assume roles and responsibilities closely related to their areas of expertise.

The U.S. Attorney's Office, in conjunction with the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), the Essex County Superior Court, the Newark Police Department, the Essex County Prosecutor's Office and the Essex County Sheriff's Office will coordinate the Weed Committee of the Weed and Seed strategy. The U.S. Attorney's Office and the DEA will be responsible for policy issues and law enforcement strategies associated with the Weed and Seed strategy. The Essex County Prosecutor's Office will be responsible for gathering and maintaining the statistical data necessary to evaluate the progress of the Weed and Seed strategy. The role of the Essex County Sheriff's Office and the Newark Police Department is to implement a progressive and responsible community policing strategy that furthers the goals of the Project. The role of the Target-Cities TASC-Coordinator of Essex County Superior Court is to coordinate the law enforcement and community policing efforts with the treatment and neighborhood revitalization components of the Weed and Seed strategy.

The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ), the Interfaith Neighborhood Empowerment for Prevention and Rehabilitation Project (INEPRP) and the Newark/North Jersey Committee of Black Churchmen will jointly develop, implement, coordinate and supervise the prevention/intervention/treatment portion of the Weed and Seed strategy. UMDNJ will be responsible for selecting treatment strategies and INERPR is responsible for treatment services. The Newark/North Jersey Committee of Black Churchmen, with support from the Essex County Superior Court and the City of Newark, will coordinate the prevention/intervention/treatment strategies for the Seed Committee.

The City of Newark, the Newark Housing Authority, community based organizations, community development corporations, non-profit organizations and neighborhood churches will develop, supervise and implement the revitalization aspects of the Weed and Seed strategy, and be members of the Seed Committee. The City of Newark, the Newark Housing Authority, Corinthian Housing Development Corporation, the Urban Community Corporation, local colleges, community development corporations, non-profits, community based organizations and local churches will be responsible for revitalization in the target neighborhoods. These entities will be responsible for initiating community economic development projects such as job training and placement.